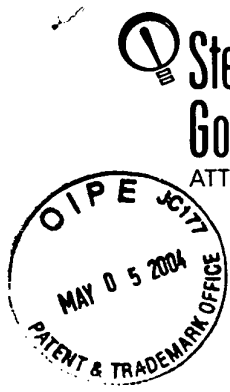


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May 5, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2100

Mail Stop: Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No.: 09/971,765; Filed: October 9, 2001
For: **A Method and Apparatus for a Common-Cause Failure Module for
Probabilistic Risk Assessment Tools**
Inventors: Franciscus J. GROEN *et al.*
Our Ref: 1797.0510000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
May 5, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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MVM/TAW:ddc
Enclosures

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